REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding grounds of rejection is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the remarks that follow.

The Examiner has rejected claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Citron. According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to construct the throttle control member with a material such as polyurethane thermoplastic elastomer as suggested by Citron's utilization of plastic for strainer 66 and annular flange 208.

Independent claim 29 has been amended to require that the control member have at least one rotation prevention tab projecting therefrom, and that the throttle control member be operatively associated with the shaft such that rotation of the shaft causes the throttle control member to move axially relative to the shaft and to a flow restriction portion in the inlet to thereby adjust flow rate through the stem and the nozzle. Citron neither discloses nor suggest an elastomer throttle control member having at least one rotation prevention tab projecting therefrom as required by independent claim 29. Accordingly, both claim 29 and claim 30 that depends therefrom are clearly patentable over Citron.

The Examiner has additionally rejected claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as unpatentable over Chase in view of Bruninga. Chase is relied upon for its disclosure of a throttle control member 36, and Bruninga is relied upon for disclosure of a throttle control member 62 of plastic material. The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the throttle control member of chase by constructing it of a polyurethane thermoplastic elastomer.

For essentially the same reasons as presented above, the combination of references as cited and applied by the Examiner is insufficient to render the claimed invention obvious. More

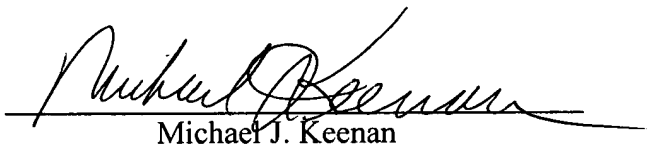
specifically, neither Chase nor Bruninga discloses an elastomer throttle control member with a rotation prevention tab extending therefrom, and it is therefore apparent that the claimed subject matter patentably distinguishes over the combination of Chase and Bruninga.

New dependent claim 31 has been added to specify how the throttle control member self-taps during assembly over a threaded metal sleeve that is fixed to one end of the shaft.

The application, including claims 1-31, is now in condition for immediate allowance and early passage to issue is requested. In the event, however, any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned so that the prosecution of this application can be expeditiously concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
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